

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The bill (H.R. 4036), as amended, was passed.

#### RECORD ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF THE 104TH CONGRESS

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, before the 104th Congress does come to an end, I want to take this opportunity to thank all Senators for their cooperation and hard work with regard to many accomplishments of this Congress. This is one of the most productive Congresses in recent memory, maybe not in terms of absolute numbers but in terms of historic legislation. There is a long list.

I personally was involved and enjoyed working on such bills as the telecommunications reform legislation, which was a mighty effort that had been in the making for 10 years. We had good bipartisan cooperation on that. We did get small business tax relief and, of course, we have all talked about welfare reform, health insurance reform, illegal immigration and the monumental task of putting together the omnibus appropriations bill without extensions of time, and we got it done.

I think we should rightfully take pride as we went along with more and more bipartisan effort, not always cooperation but we were working together and we were able to get an agreement on a number of issues that looked as if we might not be able to just days or weeks ago.

When I was first elected majority leader in June, the Senate was, frankly, in a logjam situation with regard to several key issues. It was with great cooperation and patience of all Senators, and especially my Republican colleagues, our leadership team, and, quite frankly, with the leadership on the other side of the aisle that we were able to resolve many of those outstanding issues in an orderly fashion.

However, with triumph does come disappointment. That goes to the fact that the Senate was not able to address some of the issues that I really had hoped that we would address in a different way—the partial-birth abortion ban veto vote which was disappointing, and I fully expect that matter will be considered again in the next Congress. But we had ample opportunity to debate and make our case. We had a vote, and in that one we just did not have enough votes to prevail, to override a veto.

All in all, I believe that the entire membership of the 104th Congress can leave today proud of their accomplishments and return in January ready to take on the many new challenges that face us.

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, let me just make a couple of remarks prior to the time we finish our work today.

Let me first begin by again congratulating the majority leader on his first few months in his new position. I would not characterize this Congress quite as

he has, but I think we need to end on as positive and as bipartisan a note as we can.

I congratulate him on many of his efforts over the last several months. I do believe this has become a more bipartisan and more cooperative and a more productive session in part because of the leadership that Senator LOTT has demonstrated. I hope that we can work as successfully together in the new Congress.

#### STAFF CONTRIBUTIONS

Mr. DASCHLE. Mr. President, as we watch them work, I am reminded again of the remarkable contribution made by our staff, the floor staff, our clerks, so many of the people in the cloak-rooms and in every facet of the operation of the Senate. I admire them for their amazing dedication to this institution and for their hard work each and every day they come to work. We do not thank them enough. They are hard workers on both sides of the aisle.

I will not begin to name names except John Doney only because we know he is retiring, but we thank him, we applaud him, and we admire his great work—and their great work and contribution to our effort each and every day.

Again, I thank my colleagues and I thank our leadership, and I certainly thank my personal staff for the great job they have done in serving me and working with us in the last 2 years.

With that I yield the floor.

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I thank the Senator from South Dakota, the Democratic leader, for observing the fine work that we do receive from our staff. Some of them are on the back rail today. They work long hours. They produce a lot of good legislation on both sides of the aisle. Our own personal staffs in our offices work long hours, but the people here at the desks in front of us, they are here when the doors open and they are the last ones out. We would not dare presume to proceed without their very capable and efficient work. As we have seen here in the last few minutes, there has been a real scramble to get the work done, but it is always done very professionally and accurately, and I also extend my thanks to them.

#### PROVIDING FUNDING FOR THE OFFICE OF SENATE FAIR EMPLOYMENT PRACTICES

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to proceed to the immediate consideration of Senate Resolution 324.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 324) to provide funding for the Office of Senate Fair Employment Practices to carry out certain transition responsibilities.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection to the immediate consideration of the resolution?

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I ask that the resolution be adopted and the motions to reconsider be laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the resolution is agreed to.

The resolution (S. Res. 324) was agreed to, as follows:

S. Res. 324

Resolved, That the Secretary of the Senate shall transfer an amount not to exceed \$100,000, from the resolution and reorganization reserve of the miscellaneous items appropriations account, within the contingent fund of the Senate, for use by the Director of the Office of Senate Fair Employment Practices for salaries and expenses of such Office through January 30, 1997, related to carrying out the responsibilities of such Office in accordance with section 506 of the Congressional Accountability Act of 1995 (2 U.S.C. 1435). Effective date is October 1, 1996.

#### RETIREMENT OF SENATOR ALAN SIMPSON, U.S. SENATOR, WYOMING

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, I rise to join other colleagues in wishing AL, Ann, and their children the best for their future. Senator SIMPSON has wisely reclaimed his life, the balance, for them.

I have waited until this moment, as the Senate "retires" from the 104th Congress to make my statement on behalf of one of the most valued and respected friends I have ever had.

A fearless advocate for what he believed. Integrity that could never be doubted.

As the "whip" of our side of the aisle, his leadership reconciled the "mountainous" Senate egos—ambitions—when all seemed unreconcilable. Leadership is "background and backbone." He was truly a son of the Senate, a son of a proud father, himself a Senator from Wyoming.

By his side, to steady his hand, often to protect, on occasion, fellow Senators from the "whip," to temper his flowing humor, to correct his record, was his wife—loved and respected by all. I shall dearly miss the Simpson family.

#### SENATOR HOWELL HEFLIN

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, does the Senator from Alabama have anything? Is he willing to allow us to wrap this up? I know he is enjoying these last few moments that he is sitting here as a Senator. We all have enjoyed working with him so much. I found it interesting that he is here watching these last few moments. Would you like to leave one last word for posterity?

Mr. HEFLIN. It has sort of been a historical sine die session. This being my last few moments in the Senate, I though I would be here and watch this historic event. Thank you.

Mr. LOTT. We felt your presence.

Mr. HEFLIN. Thank you.